श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी : आप यह बताइये कि कितना मिलता रहेगा ?

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, when the hon. Minister was replying to the question raised by Pranabji, he referred to the difference between the net proceeds and the gross proceeds of the Divisible Pool and said that it is negligible. But it is not so. The difference between the net proceeds and the gross proceeds is very considerable and crores of rupees are being lost by the State Governments. If this is the case, then I think the observation made by the hon. Minister is not correct. By the way my point is that some States are implementing the poverty alleviation programmes in a very efficient manner. They have reduced the number of those people who are below the poverty line to the maximum possible extent. The States which are doing so efficiently, actually, get less amount from the Centre when the next Budget comes. What we feel is that the States which are implementing poverty alleviation programmes efficiently, should be prized by allocating them more funds. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Central Government would come forward and revise the formula which they are adopting now so that the States which are doing the best job to reduce the number of those people who are below the poverty line, are allocated more funds. I expect response of the Government in this regard.

SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR : Sir, I fully appreciate the concern expressed by the hon. Member. Sir, these are the matters for consideration. All the States, even individuals and associations, get an opportunity to go before the Finance Commission. You can always plead your case before the Finance Commission. After a careful consideration of all that, the Finance Commission in its wisdom can make its recommendations in this regard.

Reduction in rate of commission payable to Mahila Pradhan Agents under NSS

@*342. SHRI GAYA SINGH : †

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN :

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have issued orders reducing the 5 per cent commission given to the Mahila Pradhan Agents working under the National Savings Scheme to 4 per cent; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor ?

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* The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Gaya Singh.
@Starred Question Nos. 342 and 349 were taken together.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHEPATIL) : (a) Yes Sir. The rate of commission payable to Mahila Pradhan Kshetriya Bachat Yojana Agents, canvassing deposits in post Office Recurring Deposit Scheme for gross annual collections of more than Rs. 25,000 has been reduced from 5% to 4%.

(b) The rates of commission payable to the agents under various agency systems have been rationalised on the basis of a recommendation of a committee on small savings.

CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO THE POLICY HOLDERS OF NSS

@*349 SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA :
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had changed some of the conditions applicable to the policy holders of National Savings Scheme;

(b) if so, what are the changes effected; and

(c) the reasons for these changes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHEPATIL) : (a) and (b) The rate of interest payable on the deposits in the National Savings Scheme has been reduced by 0.5% from 11% per annum to 10.5% per annum w.e.f. 15-1-2000. No other change has been made in the NSS.

(c) The slight revision in the rate of interest was made in the larger interest of the economy so as to align these rates with the overall interest rate structure in the country.

श्री गया सिंह : सभापति महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने जवाब दिया है कि यह स्कीम पूरे देश में चल रही है और खास तौर से महिलाओं में काफी मोटीवेशन हुआ है। यह मोटीवेशन जो महिला प्रधान एजेंट हैं, उनके प्रयास से हुआ है। लेकिन कमीशन की दर को इन्होंने पांच प्रतिशत से चार प्रतिशत कर दिया है। अभी तक इस स्कीम में देश भर से कितनी महिलाएं आ रही हैं यह मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं। दूसरा, यह जो आपने एक परसेंट घटा दिया उससे कितनी कम हो रही हैं ? इसमें हमारा एक सुझाव है कि क्या इस स्कीम को और व्यापक करने के लिए

* Question Nos. 342 and 349 were taken together.

@Starred Question Nos. 342 and 349 were taken together.